

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The image pickup system of the present invention comprises a noise estimating unit which estimates the amount of noise contained in a digitized signal from an image pickup element composed of an array of a plurality of pixels, either for each pixel or for each specified unit area comprising a plurality of pixels, and a shooting situation estimation unit which estimates the shooting situation when an image based on the signal is acquired. The amount of noise estimated by the noise estimating unit is corrected on the basis of the shooting situation estimated by the shooting situation estimation unit, and the noise in the signal is reduced on the basis of the corrected amount of noise.